



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 – 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

*This service booklet is used at both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.
The hymns, choral, and organ music listed are for the 10:30 service only.*

PRELUDE Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
(“Savior of the Nations, come;” Hymn 54)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

8:00 Steve and Cindy Bochantin
10:30 Travis, Karen, Nate and Ryan Linneman

The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the season of Advent.

The candles for the First and Second Sunday of Advent are now lit.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. (Luke 3:2b-6)

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

THE WORD OF GOD

- 8:00 *The People stand as the procession enters. The service continues with the Opening Acclamation.*
- 10:30 *The People stand and sing the hymn.*

HYMN 598: “Lord Christ, when first thou cam’st to earth”

Mit Freuden zart

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRISAGION

- 8:00 *Said by all, three times*

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

HYMN 67: "Comfort, comfort ye my people"

Psalm 42

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. David Hodges

A period of silence is kept. Then the People stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:**

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector As we await the second advent of our Savior, let us come to the Holy One of God, on whom rests the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and the spirit of counsel and might, as we pray for the needs of the world, saying, "Blessed be the Lord our Savior; / May God's Name be blessed for ever."

The People kneel, as able.

We pray for the Church, remembering Sarah, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; and for the clergy and ministry leaders of St. Peter's. Let us live in harmony with one another, so that with one voice we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our diocesan cycle we pray for Trinity Episcopal Church in De Soto, and the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension, our Companion Community. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church of Bangladesh. Blessed be the Lord our Savior;

People **May God's Name be blessed for ever.**

Lector We remember those in leadership in this country and every place, remembering Donald, our President, and Mike, our Governor. Let all in authority make decisions that give equity for the meek of the earth. Let there be peace in all places, that the earth would be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea, that there would be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. Blessed be the Lord our Savior;

People **May God's Name be blessed for ever.**

Lector We pray for those in our parish and community with any need, known and unknown, remembering Garth Fort, [_____,] Holly Parks, and David Westfall. Let the poor receive justice, and may the needy be defended, as we pray for those who are unhoused, unemployed, or bereft of stability, security, and comfort. Through our compassion, may they be filled with all joy and peace in believing, abounding in hope by the Spirit. Blessed be the Lord our Savior;

People **May God's Name be blessed for ever.**

Lector We remember the departed, for those we love but see no longer [especially ____]. In their rest, may they glorify God for his mercy as they forever sing praises to God's Name. Blessed be the Lord our Savior;

People **May God's Name be blessed for ever.**

Lector Let us pray for our own needs, and for those of others.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant O God, by your holy prophets you promised that your Son would be born, and in these last days you have fulfilled your Word: Let our prayers rise to you, and may the Savior, who came to redeem the world, find us ready to receive him when he comes again to be our judge; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
All **we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The People stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After the Peace, the People sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Everyone participating in worship is invited to make an offering in gratitude for God's generosity. If you would like to make an offering, you may scan the code to the right and follow the prompts.



O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

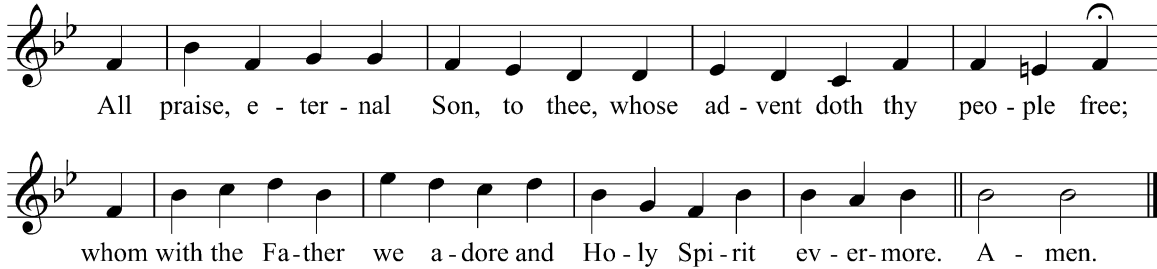
O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

- Magnificat Antiphon for December 21

The People stand and sing.

THE PRESENTATION (Hymn 76, stanza 5)

Winchester New



- Charles Coffin, tr. C. Winfred Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

- 8:00 *Said by all*
- 10:30 *Sung by all* (Hymnal S 127)

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The People kneel, as able.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Peter, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant This is the true Bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
People **Whoever eats this Bread will live for ever.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion
by coming to the altar rail where you may kneel or stand.*

Please tell the clergy if you require gluten-free Bread.

*Crossing your arms over your chest will let the clergy know
you would like to receive a blessing but not the Bread and/or Wine.*

COMMUNIO *Jerusalem surge*

Plainsong, Mode 2

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand upon the heights; look to the east, and behold the joy that comes to you from the Lord your God.

- Baruch 5

MOTET

G. P. da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

Fuit homo missus a Deo,
cui nomen erat Joannes.
Hic venit in testimonium,
ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine,
et pararet Domino plebem perfectam.

*There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.
This man came as a witness,
to give testimony about the light,
and to prepare for the Lord a perfect
people.*

- John 1: 6-8

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The People kneel, as able.

All **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The People stand.

HYMN 534: "God is working his purpose out"

Purpose

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660
(*"Savior of the Nations, come;" Hymn 54*)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

MUSIC NOTES The St. Peter's Choir continue their celebratory exploration of the music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594) with the motet at Communion. A four-voice version of "Fuit homo missus a Deo" has been very popular among Anglican choirs, and was included in an Advent choral anthology by Oxford University Press. Today, we sing the less familiar but more sumptuous setting of this same text for five voices.

The organ voluntaries for this service are taken from the collection known as the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes, or "Leipzig Chorales," by German composer J. S. Bach (1685-1750). Bach assembled this comprehensive collection of works that he composed in Weimar and revised them into a polished collection in Leipzig. Three of the eighteen chorale preludes are based on the Advent chorale "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland." The second of these, BWV 660, feels almost experimental in nature, given its many unusual features, which include two dueling bass lines throughout, arpeggiated chords, and a final, solo sustained pedal note.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God in loving memory of Marianne Maise Stuart,
by Julie Ferrie.

PRAYER LIST

For Family and Friends: Garth Fort, Holly Parks, David Westfall

For the Men and Women of the Armed Forces: Alexandra Maranto

For Those Committed to Our Ongoing Prayers: Lee Arten, Victor Belyan, Bev Bouchard, Virginie Brightman, Craig Campbell, Wendell Covington, Ralph Dacey, Kathryn Dewein, Margaret Ruth Dewein, Bonnie and Rich Essick, Prissy Evans, Nolan Fagan, Teenie Followell, Don Franz, Margie Franz, Christy Garesche, Annette Goldman, Maria Greider, John Hartman, Emily Hintz, Jeff Hirsch, Jack Howard, Ian, Mike Kolman, John Marshall, Kary Matthews, Sharon Trainer Mauney, Bob Messey, Cheryl Meyer, Randy Meyer, Liza Nash, Chris O'Connor, Maddie O'Keefe, David Orlowski, Holly Parks, Kimberly Penning, Howard Price, Chi Chi Rassieur, Sara Rigel, Judith Roos, Hudson Rosencrans, Sally Russell, June Sellenriek, Martha Shaffer, Jill Smock, Dewayne Stapes, Abbot Thomas, Mia Tiefenbrunn, Anne Wetzel, Rolla Wetzel, and Goldie Wirth

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 A.M.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. David Hodges
<i>Organ</i>	David Sinden
<i>Lectors</i>	Patty Weisensee, Bud Wilson
<i>Ushers</i>	Randy and Cheryl Meyer
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Kathy Baker, Merrill Buettner

10:30 A.M.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. David Hodges
<i>Assisting Clergy</i>	The Rev. Zack Rugenstone
<i>Musicians</i>	The St. Peter's Choir David Sinden, Organist and Choirmaster
<i>Acolyte Masters</i>	William Schoenecker, DeWayne Trainer
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sloane Stockwell, Charlotte Craig, Johanna Sanchez, Emma Fouke, Elliot Reed, Charlie Miller
<i>Lectors</i>	Clark and Jeanie Davis
<i>Ushers</i>	Logan O'Connor, Lisa Hodges, Connie Lohr, Liza Weiss
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jan Craig
<i>Monday Counters</i>	Jerry and Bonnie Freeland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP & MUSIC

CONCERT: EARLY MUSIC MISSOURI

Today at 3:00 p.m. Early Music Missouri presents *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!* featuring masterpieces by G. F. Handel, Antonio Vivaldi, and Arcangelo Corelli. The program includes Corelli's beloved *Christmas Concerto*, Handel's radiant *Gloria* for solo soprano, and Vivaldi's joyful *Gloria* for choir, soloists, strings, Baroque oboe, and trumpet. Come enjoy an afternoon of exceptional Baroque music in the beautiful acoustic of St. Peter's. \$20 suggested donation at the door with discounts for students.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent will be held next Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m. This popular service reflects the Advent season's growing anticipation. The St. Peter's Choir sing music by G.P. da Palestrina, Aaron Copland, Judith Weir, Francis Pott, James MacMillan, Matthew Martin, Jessica Nelson, and Kerensa Briggs. A recital of Advent music, played by organists Joseph Arndt and David Sinden, begins a few minutes after 4:30 p.m. A reception will follow the service.

DONATE TO CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The flowers and greens used to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas season are an annual cost that is graciously offset by the generosity of our parishioners. We hope that you will contribute \$50.00 or more to the general cost, in loving memory or in honor/thanksgiving of loved ones. You may make your donation and acknowledgment by scanning the QR code, or complete a "Christmas Flowers" form found in the narthex and undercroft. All donations and acknowledgments must be placed by Monday, December 15.



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For many, Christmas can be an occasion to seek solace rather than celebration. Remembering that God shares in our sorrows as well as our joys, all are welcome to attend a "Blue Christmas" service on Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S

St. Peter's will offer three services for Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day:

Christmas Eve - December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist: Family friendly and led by the children of St. Peter's
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: A merry, traditional service with the full choir
- 9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: An intimate and festive gathering with carols

Christmas Day - December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: A joyful and quiet celebration of the birth of our Savior

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Children's Chapel is offered in Grace Chapel from 10:15 to 10:25 a.m. All children and parents are invited. Children are then escorted down to their Sunday school classes.
- Sunday School classes begin at 10:30 a.m.
- Nursery is offered in the lower level of the Little Building from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Please contact Didi Noelker, Director of Children & Family Ministries, at dnoelker@specstl.org with any questions.

YOUTH GROUP

St. Peter's Youth Group meets tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the confirmation classroom downstairs (or, as the St. Peter's youth recently renamed it: "SPY HQ"). All youth, grades 6-12, are invited to be part of this Sunday evening community where we share in discussions about faith, life, and how the two intersect - plus have plenty of fun along the way. This week we will talk about how we prepare for Christmas. We will also get the youth room ready for the Christmas Party, next Sunday, December 14. For more information, contact the Rev. Zack Rugenstone at zackr@specstl.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We would love to have your child involved in this year's Christmas Pageant. Children, age 4 to Grade 5, will have costumed parts, and students in Grade 6 and above will be the readers. It is a remarkable experience for a child to help recreate the story of the Nativity during the service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. There will be one mandatory rehearsal on Saturday, December 20, at 10:00 a.m. More information will be coming to families soon. Please contact Didi Noelker if you have questions at dnoelker@specstl.org

STEWARDSHIP & PARISH LIFE

BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO OTHERS

Would you like to deliver some Christmas cheer to fellow parishioners? You can sign up to deliver poinsettias on Tuesday, December 16, or Wednesday December 17 to our mostly at-home parishioners and the recently bereaved. Those that sign up are asked to stop by the church that day to pick up poinsettias (usually 5 or 6), a list of recipients, and driving instructions - everything you need for an easy delivery! If you would like to participate in this great ministry, please contact Jacquelyn at jacquelynv@specstl.org or call the church office at (314) 993-2306

TODAY: CHILDREN'S ART SHOW RECEPTION

Join us after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for a joyful celebration of our children's artwork in the Undercroft. Kids can create LEGO-printed Christmas cards, and everyone can enjoy cookies and hot chocolate while viewing the wonderful pieces from St. Peter's children and youth.

TUESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

The December meeting of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast will be Tuesday, December 9, at 7:30 a.m. in the Undercroft. All are welcome to gather for great food and fellowship!

ST. PETER'S GUILD

The St. Peter's Guild will gather this Tuesday, December 9, for a festive Christmas Party at Bonnie Wolfarth's home from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All are invited to enjoy a cheerful afternoon of lunch, fellowship, and Christmas spirit. Come share in the joy of the season and celebrate together. Contact Cheryl Meyer at goldelocks156@gmail.com for more information.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

We invite you to reflect on the blessings of this past year and consider making an end-of-year gift to support the mission of St. Peter's. Your generosity enables us to provide meaningful ministries, maintain our sacred spaces, and serve as a place of faith and community for all who seek it. Please note that **all offerings for 2025 must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, December 31, 2025**. There are many ways to give, including one-time gifts, charitable IRA rollovers, stock donations, or by starting or updating your online giving. Visit www.specstl.org/give. Thank you!

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group is open to all. The group meets on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in the Elliot Room. This group also focuses on the current week's Gospel to prepare for a more meaningful Sunday worship experience. For information, please contact Sally Lemkemeier at lemkemeier@aol.com

OUTREACH

FINAL SUNDAY FOR GIVING TREE

Today is the last chance to grab a tag off our Giving Tree in the Narthex! All gifts support St. Peter's Blessing Bags and our outreach ministry partners - Welcome Neighbor, Urban League, and GiFT (Giving is a Family Tradition). Please return your *unwrapped* gifts to the church office by tomorrow! You may also shop from our Amazon Giving Tree Wishlist. By scanning the QR code and having items sent directly to the church. Thank you!



SERVE TODAY: TRINITY HOT LUNCH

Several times a year, St. Peter's parishioners volunteer to prepare and serve a meal at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End. We could still use some helping hands today! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jim Gilbert at hockeygolf@live.com

FORMATION

RECTOR'S FORUM AND BREAKFAST

This season, we welcome guest speakers from across our parish and the wider St. Louis community to join us for Rector's Forum. Each week will bring a new voice, a new perspective, and a new opportunity to explore how faith connects with the world around us. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast (beginning at 8:45 a.m.) and conversation/speakers (beginning at 9:15 a.m.). The cost of breakfast is \$9. Kids under 5 eat free!

Upcoming Rector's Forums:



December 14: LaChrisa Crenshaw, The Youth & Family Center

LaChrisa Crenshaw from the Youth & Family Center (YFC) will share the powerful, ongoing story of an organization that has been strengthening St. Louis families for more than 135 years. The YFC continues to respond to the needs of low-income families with dignity, creativity, and care. LaChrisa's presentation will offer a look at the center's current initiatives and its transformative vision for the whole family.



December 21: Dr. Isaac Arten, St. Peter's Theologian in Residence

Dr. Isaac Arten will offer a rich and accessible exploration of the Incarnation. Drawing on scripture, theological tradition, contemporary insights, Dr. Arten will reflect on what it means for God to enter fully into human life, and how this central mystery of the faith shapes our understanding of grace, hope, and the dignity of every person. His presentation will invite us to consider how the Incarnation continues to transform the Church's life and our own daily practices of faith.

IS YOUR USED IPHONE LONELY?

Do you have a gently used iPad or iPhone (12 or higher) that you no longer use? Consider giving it a new home! The church is looking for a few of these devices to help with administrative and communication strategies. Please contact Jacquelyn at jacquelynv@specstl.org or call the church office at (314) 993-2306 if you have questions or would like to donate a device.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Sunday	Dec. 7	The Second Sunday of Advent	
		8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
		8:45 a.m. Parish Breakfast	
		9:00 a.m. Nursery Care Opens	<i>Little Building</i>
		9:15 a.m. Rector's Forum	<i>Undercroft</i>
		10:15 a.m. Children's Chapel	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
		Sunday School	<i>Classrooms</i>
		11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	
		Children's Art Exhibit Reception	<i>Undercroft</i>
		3:00 p.m. Concert: Early Music Missouri	
		5:00 p.m. St. Peter's Youth Group	<i>SPY HQ</i>
Tuesday	Dec. 9	7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		Second Tuesday Breakfast Club	<i>Undercroft</i>
		8:30 a.m. Zoom Bible Study	<i>Online</i>
		10:30 a.m. St. Peter's Guild Christmas Party	<i>Offsite</i>
Wednesday	Dec. 10	7:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study	<i>Elliot Room</i>
		5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
Thursday	Dec. 11	7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		10:00 a.m. Centering Prayer	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		5:15 p.m. Probationers Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
		6:00 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
		7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
Friday	Dec. 12	8:00 a.m. A.A.	<i>Classroom</i>
Sunday	Dec. 14	The Third Sunday of Advent	
		8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
		8:45 a.m. Parish Breakfast	
		9:00 a.m. Nursery Care Opens	<i>Little Building</i>
		9:15 a.m. Rector's Forum	<i>Undercroft</i>
		10:15 a.m. Children's Chapel	<i>Grace Chapel</i>
		10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
		Sunday School	<i>Classrooms</i>
		11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	
		5:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols	
		St. Peter's Youth Group	<i>SPY HQ</i>

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S

If you are visiting St. Peter's, we would love to share more information with you about our shared life and ministry! Please take a red welcome bag on your way out the door. In it you'll find information about our worship, formation, and fellowship opportunities as well as information for families. You can also scan the QR codes below to get connected with us and learn more.



New Visitor Form



Give Online



News & Events

THE PARISH STAFF

The Rev. David Hodges, <i>Rector</i>	davidh@specstl.org
The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon, <i>Associate Rector</i>	nhaydon@specstl.org
The Rev. Zack Rugenstone, <i>Youth and Young Adult Minister</i>	zackr@specstl.org
The Rev. Luke Jernagan, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	lukejern@gmail.com
The Rev. Jay Kanzler, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	jaykanzler@wkllc.com
The Rev. Susie Skinner, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	susieskinner@gmail.com
The Rev. Valerie Patton, <i>Assisting Deacon</i>	deaconvalerieepatton@gmail.com
Dr. Isaac Arten, <i>Theologian in Residence</i>	isaac.arten@gmail.com
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Lisa Reynolds, <i>Playgroup Director</i>	playgroup@specstl.org
Regina Clay, <i>Sexton</i>	sexton@specstl.org

THE VESTRY

Cyd Alloway, Peter Boumgarden, Barbara Brinkman (Secretary, *ex officio*),
Margaret Carmichael, Clark Davis, Amy Hilmer, Rich Huck (Senior Warden),
Noelle Miles, Tim Noelker, Logan O'Connor, Michael Orlowski,
William Schoenecker, Traci Scudi, Matt Sokolich, and Ann Sutter Spann (Junior Warden)



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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